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ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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COMMERCE, TRADE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION
ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY
ENVIRONMENT AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
HEALTH



Mary Bono
Congress of the United States
45th District, California

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
405 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5330
FAX: (202) 225-2961

DISTRICT OFFICES:
707 EAST TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY
SUITE 9
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262
(760) 320-1076
FAX: (760) 320-0596
1600 EAST FLORIDA AVENUE
SUITE 301
HEMET, CA 92544
(951) 658-2312
FAX: (951) 652-2562

Dear Concerned Citizen:

During the 109th Congress, my colleagues and I in the U.S. House of Representatives began the legislative process to address border security and illegal immigration. The issue is very complex and requires individuals to listen to all sides of the debate and dismiss inflammatory rhetoric that seeks to divide us.

As you know, I co-sponsored H.R. 4437, the "Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005." This legislation seeks to prevent illegal immigration and help law enforcement officers on all levels regain control of our borders. It is the responsibility of government to ensure the security of its people, and I believe that having secure borders is an exercise in that responsibility.

In addition to border security, the legislation aims to prevent the traffic of human smuggling by individuals such as "coyotes" who exploit those seeking to enter this country. Unfortunately, our current alien-smuggling laws are inadequate in the fight against sophisticated human smuggling operations.

There has been plenty of discussion about Title II of H.R. 4437 and the House's good-faith effort to bring human smugglers to justice. I can assure you, as is the case under current law, religious and humanitarian organizations would **not** have to check the legal status of people before they provide humanitarian services.

I also recognize that much has been made of the House bill's provision to make illegal presence a felony. As you are aware, during the debate on the House floor Chairman Sensenbrenner offered an amendment to reduce the bill's penalty for illegal presence from a felony to a misdemeanor. I voted in favor of the amendment; however, the amendment was unsuccessful primarily because all but eight of my Democratic colleagues voted to retain the language that makes illegal presence a felony.

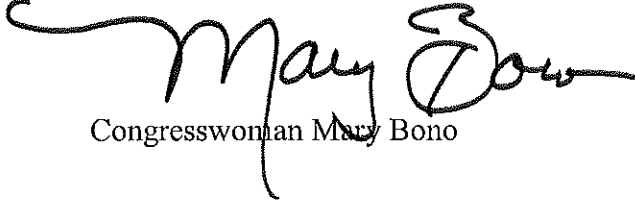
As my record in Congress indicates, I am a firm believer in having secure and safe borders. However, I believe just as strongly that we need to have a well thought-out non-amnesty guest worker program. I have been on record since the year 2000 supporting a non-amnesty guest worker program. This congress, I have co-sponsored one such bill, H.R. 884, "Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act of 2005."

Please allow me to be perfectly clear: I do not condone the practice of illegal immigration. However, as your Congresswoman, I cannot ignore the global threats and economic realities our nation is faced with today. That is why I believe my position on

this matter is the best one for the 45th District of California and the United States of America.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to hearing your comments on this and other issues of importance to you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Bono". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left from the first letter.

Congresswoman Mary Bono